RW: Ernesto Somosa is a lifelong Tucsonan who is using his Creative Energy to harness the passions of his students. He graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts. And now teaches a dual enrollment graphic design at both Pima Community College and Pueblo High School. Ernesto, thank you so much for being with us here today.

It's a pleasure.

RW: You are bringing the highest quality graphic design and Technology education to Pueblo. Could you share with our listeners some of the most Innovative things your teaching in your class?

ES: In my class, I've gone above and beyond to include 3D printing, laser engraving, and all kinds of innovative technology that is going to be the future.

RW: That's amazing to have drones, 3D printers in a high school class. What impact do you think that access has on your students?

ES: I believe when students are able to see their creations and like let's say Adobe Illustrator and then actually see it be cut laser cut into wood or 3D printed then that's when they're like, whoa, this is so cool and seeing students just get so like surprised with that. They're like, wow, I had no idea that you could even do this with graphic design. That excitement is what drives I believe my program and why I'm also so excited to teach this program.

RW: You're involved in a lot outside of the classroom as well with many of the student clubs. Could you talk some about the clubs that you're involved in?

ES: I'm the advisor of the technology Club. So it's called tech club. I'm also the advisor travel Club. I also have another club which is Road Warriors, which is our Cycling Club. So what I like about cycling classes it shows you like how To love your community and there's so many things about like being on the Loop. The Loop is like in the heart of Tucson and there's so many things that we're able to experience on the loop. And so many students are just like wow, I never even knew that this resource was here in Tucson. So sharing things like that with my students. I'm also the adviser of hiking Club. We've got to White Sands New Mexico. We have gone to the Grand Canyon a few times. We went to Plateau Point. It's just so much fun being able to share a lot of these experiences with students and showing them to love, not only Tucson, but showing them to love our Earth, showing them to love nature, and showing them just these, I believe, resources that they can use to calm themselves. And, the more that we connect with nature, the less we stress and I'm trying to share that with students.

RW: You take your students to a very special place at Sabino Canyon. Could you tell us about that spot and why you take students about place in particular?

ES: So, every year I take students to Sabino Canyon and I like to take them to a place really close to the Sabino Canyon Dam. And, the Sabino Canyon Dam is a place where the National Park Service came in and they dammed it, and now it's kind of changed. It used to just be a stream but you know, you have this like now dammed River. So, most people when they go to Sabino Canyon, they don't realize that Native Americans here in Tucson occupied that space. I think if you go to the visitor center, there is like maybe like a picture a couple pictures or to that talk about this. But I believe the National Park Service should be like saying like Native Americans, this was Native American land in this area. Native Americans actually had crops, they had a grinding mills and they had,not mills, but they had grinding stones. So I take my students and I show them the grinding stone and I tell them like, you know, like look at this and like see that like we came first. We've been here. So when like people tell us that like like you don't belong here or you don't belong in this country or you have people saying those types of things. It's really untrue because like we've been here as a culture for a long, long time. This is like a place where you can like come and like know that like, we have a place here. You are here and don't ever let anyone tell you that you don't belong.

RW: Do you have any final messages you'd like to send out to Pueblo students and students everywhere?

ES: I really highly recommend students to get involved. Get involved in their communities, get involved in their schools get involved just in general. Don't ever feel like like, ahh, I hate my community, I hate living over here. There are so many beautiful things in this little community, even especially like here at Pueblo as a micro-community, but like, as a big community, the City of South Tucson. It is gold where we live. Love the place that you live and get engaged and you can't go wrong.